[CONFIDENTIAL.

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES, AND BERAR.

Received up to 8th February, 1881.

POLITICAL.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 8th February publishes a verna-The evacuation of Kandahar. cular translation of the Statesman's article on the evacuation of Kandahar,

Circulation, 685 copies.

and remarks:—Our contemporary has argued at great length in refuting Lord Napier of Magdala's opinion, but it has not pointed out how Russia's aggression can be checked. If our retention of Kandahar would induce her to occupy Herat, will not our retirement still more tempt her to do so? The fear of Russian advance is no imaginary one. To deny that Russia has designs against Afghanistan would be as absurd as to deny the midday sun. Our contemporary says that the keeping of a small army at Kandahar would not do, and that the cost of a large one would be a heavy drain upon the revenues of India. But in our opinion the resources of the province would be largely developed under our rule, and the income would not only suffice for the cost of administration, but would also enable us to keep an adequate army there. As regards the alleged enmity of the people, it should be observed



that they are already satisfied with the peace and order we have established there. When their condition is improved by the development of the resources of their country and they are admitted to a share in the administration, they will always remain loyal and never intrigue against us.

Circulation, 380 copies.

The Anjuman-i-Panjáb of the 31st January says that it appears from a telegraphic message The despatch of a British Mission to Kabul. received from London on the 24th idem that the Government has decided that a native envoy should be kept at Kabul. It is not obvious when the Government intends to carry out this scheme. Kabul news is not reassuring. Muhammad Jan is not on good terms with the Amir Abdul Rahman Khan, and an outbreak may take place at Kabul at any time. We hope that the Government will not send an envoy there until the Amir has firmly established his authority. The fate of Major Cavagnari should make us more careful in future. (The Koh-i-Núr of the 2nd February also expresses the same opinion.)

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

Circulation, 925 copies. The repeal of the Vernament which lately appeared in the cular Press Act.

Standard to the effect that the Press Act would be shortly repealed, and expresses much joy at the news. The editor also remarks that, as soon as the Act is repealed, he will describe at length the evil effects which it has had on the Vernacular Press.

Circulation, 425 copies. The Rahbar-i-Hind of the 3rd February, referring to Sardar Muhammad Hail the remarks made by the Pioneer in 1924 Khan, C. S. I. its issue of the 26th January about Sirdar Muhammad Haiyat Khan, C.S.I., says: Our contemporary has made some assertions, which it should not have made until they were proved, especially at such a time when the case is still under enquiry. If he has really been guilty of dishonesty, the natives will deeply regret his conduct. But they consider him to be a very honest man and regard his

services to the Government to be such as even only a few Englishman can boast of. We should not be surprised even if the charges brought against him were found to be due to jealousy on the part of Englishmen, because he succeeded in ably performing the duties of the high office to which he was appointed. As regards his suddenly taking leave and returning to India, we are well aware that he took leave owing to illness. Mr. Barkley, together with two assistant Commissioners, has been appointed to enquire into the case. It is a matter of great satisfaction that an open enquiry will be made, and the accused will be offered an opportunity of defending himself.

The Oudh Akhbar of the 8th February, in regard to the Sardar Muhammad Haiyat case of Sardar Muhammad Haiyat Khan, C. S. I.

Khan, remarks: we are grieved to hear of the charge brought against him. He is a distinguished native officer and has rendered important services to Government both in the Military and Civil Departments. If he has committed no wrong, he has nothing to fear. It is our earnest prayer that he may be found innocent.

Circulation, 685 copies.

An English supplement to the Anjuman-i-Panjáb of Lahore

The case of the European soldiers who killed a naplement dated the 31st January, the tive at Firozpur.

Plement dated the 31st January, the editor makes the following remarks, in regard to the case Queen-Empress v. Westwell and Smith:—

"While entirely concurring in the verdict of the Jury in the case of the Queen-Empress v. Westwell and Smith, of which a summary is given in another portion of our columns, we think that some sort of check ought to be placed by the military authorities on the indiscriminate shooting practised by soldiers in villages near their cantonments. In the case in question the soldiers appear to have behaved very well, under extremely trying circumstances, and to have abstained from any resort to violence, till the capture of one of their number and his apparent danger, and call for aid, led Westwell to fire. But it

ignorant of the language, and therefore quite unable to explain to the villagers, when they first began to assemble, that in reality only a most trivial accident had occurred. If one of their number had been able to do this, there is every reason to believe that the matter would have passed off quietly. The British soldier's vocabulary appears, however, to be generally limited to three words, "maro," "jao," and "baitho," and as they are for the most part rough in their demeanour towards natives, it is not to be wondered at that an out break of this kind should occur."

Circulation, 380 copies. The Mirat-ul-Hind (Lucknow) for January (received on the 7th February) says: we have renation, North-Western Propeatedly pointed out the defects of the system on which the middle class examination is conducted in these provinces. If the system is not changed, at all events able and experienced men should be appointed examiners. Moreover, the examination fee should be increased from 8 annas to Rs. 2, and the examiners should be paid a honorarium out of this fee, in order that they may more carefully examine the answers of the students.

A correspondent of the same paper complains that the The assessment of the chaukidari tax, Buland-dari tax at some places in the Buland-shahr.

shahr district have not made the assessments properly; there are many cases of over-assessment and under-assessment. The tax has been charged even on those houses which are tenantless. The Collector of Buland-shahr should see to this.

Circulation, 275 copies. A correspondent of the Panájb-i-Akhbár of the 2nd FebruOne month's holidays to ary says that the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur complains that a great deal of his time is spent in granting leave to schoolmasters

and in making arrangements for their work. He has accordingly proposed that schools should be closed for the month of September like Civil Courts, in order that the schoolmasters may attend to their private affairs during the holidays. The Inspector of Schools of Lahore has referred the matter to the Director of Public Instruction. He is of opinion that the Deputy Commissioners should be empowered to shut the schools in their districts for one month at any time from June The Director has called for the opinions of the to September. Deputy Commissioners on the subject. The ground on which the Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur recommends one month's holiday to schoolmasters is not very strong. They will no doubt attend to their ordinary private affairs during the holidays, but still occasions are sure to arise on which some of them will have to take leave. The Civil Courts are closed for September, but still some Civil Officers are obliged to take leave on urgent private affairs. We, however, highly approve of the schools being closed for one month in the year, in order that the schoolmasters may enjoy a short respite from their hard work, and recruit their health. Holidays should be given at the time of harvest as far as possible, because the sons of cultivators are generally absent from the schools at that time, as their parents require their services in the field, and the school work suffers considerably from their absence.

The Pramod Sindhu (Amraoti) of the 31st January, refersir R. J. Meade, K.C.S.I., ring to the approaching retirement of Resident at Haidarabad. Sir R. J. Meade, K.C.S.I., Resident at Haidarabad, publishes a brief account of his career, and refers to the important services he rendered in the time of the mutiny. In regard to his connection with Berar, the writer remarks that he was appointed Officiating Resident in 1875, and was confirmed in his post in 1876. In the midst of his arduous and responsible political duties at Haidarabad, he always attended carefully to the affairs of Berar, and conducted the administration with great ability. He paid two

Circulation, 125 copies. visits to this province, and took a deep interest in the welfare of the people. The natives of Berar will lose in him a good ruler and the Government an experienced and able officer. His retirement will be deeply regretted by all.

Circulation, 660 copies. The taheildars' and munlast taheildars' and munsifs' examinalast taheildars' and munsifs' examinations were held in the Pánjab about five months ago, but the results have not yet been published. There is always great delay in the publication of the results, and this is a source of great inconvenience to the candidates, especially to those who do not pass, because they do not get sufficient time to prepare themselves for the next examination. The Pánjab Government should endeavour to remedy the evil.

Circulation, 250 copies.

The Berar Samáchár of the 31st January says that Manchester is very jealous of the new Manchester and the cotton industry of India cotton industry of India, and is always anxious to destroy it. Sometime ago the mill-owners of Lancashire complained that the duty levied on cotton goods imported to India was protective, and, therefore, part of the duty was abolished by the Government of India. They now urge that the duty levied on fine cotton yarn, which the natives import from Europe, should be raised. lately submitted a memorial to the Secretary of State, praying for the remission of the import duty which is still levied on cotton goods. As they have great influence in Parliament, we are afraid that the Government will accede to their wishes. The Government of India declares that it will do nothing but what is calculated to promote the best interests of this country. It will be a matter for deep regret that it ruins the cotton industry of India for the benefit of Lancashire and sacrifices the interests of many to those of a few.

The Waqaya Alam of the 31st January states that it is to be regretted that Europeans look down with contempt upon the natives as a conquered people. When India forms an integral portion of

the British empire, there seems to be no reason why they should not freely mix with each other in a friendly manner. One of the bad results of the non-existence of a free intercourse between them is that the European officers are not acquainted with the grievances of the people. The chaprasis and private servants of Europeans levy blackmail upon the natives who go to pay visits to their masters. any man does not gratify them, they insult him much. When he next goes to see their master they give him no chair, and refuse to report his arrival to their master on If they report it, they do so at various false pretexts. a time when their master is very busy and is likely to decline to see him on that account. The tours of European officers are a misfortune to the subordinate officers and the people. If the tahsildar does not pay bribes to the servants of an official, they make false conplaints to their master about supplies, and he, without taking the trouble to enquire whether the complaints are true or false, sends for the tahsildar and threatens him. Proper prices are not generally paid for the articles bought from shopkeepers. Probably there is hardly a tahsildar who has not to spend four or five hundred rupees from his own pocket on the occasion of the tours of European officers in the cold weather. We are at a loss to understand what object these tours have in view. The officers on tour do not care to ascertain the condition of the people, and are quite inaccessible to the latter. These tours entail a large expenditure upon the Government every year, and are a source of great inconvenience and loss to the sub-ordinate native officers and the people, as has been shown above. They are quite useless and should be stopped.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The Ahsan-ul-Akhbar, Amroha, of the 3rd February, pub-

Maulvi Sami-ulla Khan, Subordinate Judge of Moradabad, and the editors of the Jam-i-Jamshed and the Naiyar-i-Azam.

lishes a long article in the defence of Maulvi Sami-ulla Khan, the Subordinate Judge of Moradabad, and refutes the charges which have been Circulation, 120 copies.

brought against him by the Jam-i-Jamshed and the Naiyari-Azam. In regard to the complaint that the pleaders raised subscriptions under the pretext of giving him a feast at the time of his departure to England on furlough, and made over the money collected to him, the Ahsan-ul-Akhbar remarks that the complaint is entirely false. As regards the collection of subscriptions by him for the Aligarh College, it should be observed that he held a meeting for the purpose at the persistent request of some raises of Moradabad. All the European officers of the district attended the meeting, and contributed subscrip-Mr. Young was president, and Mr. Tracy vice-presi-It is said that the suitors who had their cases pending in dent. Maulvi Sami-ulla Khan's court contributed under pressure. This is false. No pressure was used. It was generally believed that Maulvi Sami-ulla Khan would not come back to Moradabad on his return from Europe, and hence it is apparent that subscriptions were voluntary. The proprietor of this paper and some other raises of Amroha gave subscriptions, but none of them ever had any suits in Maulvi Sami-ulla Khan's court. He no doubt sold some of his things at the time of his departure from Moradabad, and this was an unusual thing. The native officers are not accustomed to sell their furniture when they are transferred from one place to another, or when they go on leave. But he brought no pressure to bear upon the purchasers, nor were his things sold at double or treble their actual value. He circulated a catalogue of the things he intended to sell both among Europeans and natives. Some of the things were bought by European officers. He, being a man of the same stamp as the Hon'ble Saiyid Ahmad Khan, patiently bears such slanders. Moreover, all respectable natives are averse to resorting to criminal courts. Government should interfere on his behalf, and punish his slanderers. Of what use is the Vernacular Press Act if it is not enforced even on such occasions? It is well known what class of men the editors of the Jam-i-Jamshed and the Naiyari-Azam are. In the execution of a decree an order has lately

been issued by the Subordinate Judge for the arrest of one of them.

The Nasim-i-Agra of the 7th February publishes a vernacular translation of the letter addressed to the natives of India by Mr.

Circulation, 285 copies.

Robert Knight, the editor of the London Statesman, asking for subscriptions in order to enable him to defend himself from the charge of defamation brought against him by the Amiri-kabir, the co-regent of Haidarabad, and remarks—we hope that the natives will warmly respond to Mr. Knight's appeal. He is a true friend of India. The London Statesman is the only English paper which freely ventilates our grievances and criticises the acts and measures of the Government of India.

The same paper, in its local news column, states that a Anative killed at Agra European lately beat a native gardener so severely in Agra that he immediately died from the effects of the beating.

Circulation, 285 copies.

A correspondent of the Rahbar-i-Hind (Lahore) of the The alleged misconduct of a Deputy Inspector of police towards two native officers at Firozpur.

3rd February, complains that at a public fair at Firozpur on the 22nd January some police constables beat Malik

Circulation, 425 copies.

Jwala Sahay, Assistant Civil Surgeon, and Lala Duni Chand, the ferry dároghá, by order of Mr. Smith, Deputy Inspector of Police. Mr. Smith also illegally detained the Assistant Surgeon at the police station for some time.

The Delhi Punch (published at Lahore) of the 31st January publishes a picture in which some cultivators are represented as offering bribes to a canal chaprasi and asking him to give them water for their fields. One of them offers Rs. 20, another Rs. 40, and another Rs. 50. The chaprasi refuses the amounts offered as insufficient and asks the cultivators to increase the amounts if they want water. He is also represented as having a large house, one good horse and several cows. The letter press is:

Circulation, 375 copies.

The popular saying is true that the income of a canal chaprasi is equal to that of a tahsildar.

Circulatio n, 425 copies. The Rahbar-i-Hind of the 1st February, on the authority

Subscriptions raised by a native officer at Amritsar from his subordinates for making Christmas presents to European officers. of its Amritsar correspondent, complains that a native officer at Amritsar, who has over 50 assistants, levied susbcriptions from them at the rate of

two and a half annas per rupee on pay and presented dalis to European officers on Christmas day out of the amount. Even the chaprasis who get 5 rupees a month had to pay 12 annas each.

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LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

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18 Dubduba-i-Quinri ... Bareilly ... Urdu
19 Dubduhu-i-Sikandri, Rampur ... Ditto ... Jaipur ... Ditto lish. ... Urdu 29 Khair Khwah-i-Alam Delhi ... Urdu 30 Khair Khwah-i-Oudh, Lucknow, Ditto 23 Harish Chandrika .. Benares ... Hindi Meerut ... Urdu 16 Berar Samdchar ... Akola 15 dshraf-ul-Akhbar .. Delhi NAME. 14 Arya Patrika 24 Juipur Gazette 26 Karnamah 27 Kashi Patrika 25 Julua .i . Túr

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List of papers examined—(concluded).

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PRIYA DAS, M.A.,

Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

PRINTED AT THE N.-W. P. AND OUDH GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALLAHABAD.

The 12th February ,1881. }